

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W
----- 035755

R 161040Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7180

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10454

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOMBAY 1803 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI
INFO CALCUTTA/MADRAS 14 JULY 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1803

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJ: NO "NEW PARTY"

1. THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED NATIONAL CONVENTION OF OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11 IN BOMBAY TO PROCLAIM THE FORMATION OF A UNITED OPPOSITION "NEW PARTY" HAS BEEN "INDEFINITELY" POSTPONED, ACCORDING TO LOCAL OPPOSITION SOURCES. FURTHER, J.P.NARAYAN PLANS TO LEAVE BOMBAY ON JULY 18 FOR PATNA, EVEN THOUGH HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE UNRELIABILITY OF THE DIALYSIS MACHINE THERE. HE WILL PAY A SHORT VISIT TO ACHARYA BHAVE EN ROUTE.

2. COMMENT: REPORTEDLY, J.P., WHO SEEMED TO DRAW NEW PHYSICAL STRENGTH FROM HIS INITIAL ENTHUSIASM FOR THE "NEW PARTY", IS NOW MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DEFEATED.

3. THE "NEW PARTY" HAS PROVEN TO BE THE NON-STARTER OF THE YEAR.
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WE SEE NO SIGNS OF FUTURE RESURRECTION ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED

BY J.P. FOR A SINGLE UNITED OPPOSITION PARTY. SIGNIFICANTLY OUR SOUNDINGS ARE THAT EACH OF THE FOUR OPPOSITION PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE BLAMES OTHERS FOR THE FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN THE UNITED EFFORT. IN FACT NONE COULD COME EVEN CLOSER TO BURYING THE PAST DIFFERENCES, MUCH LESS RESOLVE THE PENDING ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THAT ORGANIZATIONALLY EACH PARTY NOW WILL CONCENTRATE ON PROTECTING WHAT IS LEFT OF ITS FLANKS FROM FURTHER DEFECTIONS TO CONGRESS(R). GUJARAT CONGRESS SECRETARY TOLD US THAT HE IS HAPPIER WITH THE CONTINUING SEPARATE EXISTENCE OF HIS PARTY; UNLESS AND UNTIL SOME DEGREE OF PRE-EMERGENCY RIGHTS ARE RESTORED HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS FUTILE TO CONSIDER ANY NEW GROUPING.

4. AS WE SEE IT, UNTIL THERE IS SOME MAJOR CHANGE IN THE DE FACTO POLITICAL SCENE IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE INDIAN. OPPOSITION WILL CONTINUE AS FRAGMENTED AND AS INCAPABLE OF POSING ANY MEANINGFUL CHALLENGE TO MRS GANDHI IN FUTURE AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE LAST YEAR.
COURTNEY

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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NNN

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TAGS: PINT, OTRA, IN, (NARAYAN, J P)
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